

From: Tim
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:52pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am offended and very angry with the proposed final settlement. This settlement does not have any significant affect on Microsoft monopolies. Note that I spelled monopolies plural because Microsoft has a much larger range than most seem to notice. Microsoft has unrestricted and illegal monopolies in the following and other catagories: Operating Systems, Desktops, Internet Software(Primarily Browsers), Development Tools(Primarily Microsoft Visual C++), Office Software, Development API's, and Game Development Tools and API's. Most Microsoft products have been PROVEN to be inferior to competetion, but because of Microsoft's monopoly(or more accurately: stranglehold) over the the areas of competetion. Most consumers do not truly have a choice of products. Because of Microsoft's dictator position most people respect and believe Microsoft without much doubt. Microsoft can easily spread lies about competetion. Microsoft's existance has succeeded in damaging the software industry and lowering and destroying standards. Competetors do not have a equal chance for a customer because of Microsoft's marketing power and size. Much of Microsoft's sales in operating systems are in Windows pre-loaded systems. Microsoft has ABSOLUTE and COMPLETE control over pre-loaded operating systems. All stores selling PCs with pre-loaded Operating Systems, offer ONLY PCs with Microsoft Windows pre-loaded, offering a superior competetor NO chance in this area. By loosening Microsoft's control over icons and short-cuts on their OWN operating system, you do not affect their position at all! Microsoft's monopolistic practices include keeping Windows software from existing on other operating systems. One of which is a Game API/SDK called DirectX. This is of a large concern to me being a game developer(Programmer and Designer). Microsoft establishes DirectX(Which is a inferior API) as the only available core API for games and since it is property of Microsoft, Microsoft has control over the games.

Microsoft uses the fact that it has established enough control over the game industry to force DirectX to be used in most games so that they can keep the games from possibly being ran on another operating system. A good addition to a final settlement would be to port DirectX to Linux and possibly other operating systems. It is important that Linux be the primary OS because it is the only fit competitor and the most widely used(except for Windows of course).

A harsh settlement must be purposed for this case!! This current settlement allows Microsoft to continue its monopoly without many problems. If this settlement is not replaced or amended by a harsher settlement, Microsoft could further damage or even destroy the software industry! I am outraged by the court's failure to care about a proper punishment for such a company/empire!

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